

## EURACOAL – Press Release 1/2007

### Europe opts for coal and climate protection

#### Coal industry welcomes the European Commission's proposals / Conference in Brussels

**Brussels** – To a large extent, the European coal industry welcomes the European Commission's proposals on sustainable power generation from fossil fuels. At the "Coal in Europe" Conference, EURACOAL's President Maksymilian Klank explained that many approaches developed in the Technology Platform ZEP concerning the modernisation of power plant technology had been taken on board in the energy policy paper on the future of coal in Europe put forward by the European Commission in the framework of its general energy policy concept. Today, the challenge is to rapidly tackle the extensive research and development that are required as well as the necessary legal framework.

Efficient and low-emission coal-fired power plants can make a major contribution to the European Commission's ambitious objectives of achieving improved energy efficiency and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It is essential to pursue the current modernisation of power plants and to replace outdated installations by power plant concepts with higher steam parameters. The European coal industry supports the Commission's proposal to build 10-12 CO<sub>2</sub>-free power plants as demonstration installations by approximately 2015. CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage), however, still requires considerable efforts in research and development said EURACOAL's President Klank. A harmonised legal framework is urgent in order to introduce these new technologies and to settle the many issues relating to CO<sub>2</sub> storage.

In addition to retro-fitting new power plants with CCS technologies, Klank is also in favour of further developing the efficiency of power plants. This is especially true for countries where coal covers a large share of power generation and where major CO<sub>2</sub> abatement achievements can already be pursued without CCS technologies. Integrating the modernisation of power plants into the existing European Emissions Trading Scheme could provide a long-lasting impetus for the rapid implementation of such a strategy.

In his capacity as President of the Association of the Polish Hard Coal Industry (ZPGWK), Klank also described the current situation of coal in Poland. With hard coal production at approximately 100 Million tonnes and lignite production at 60 Million tonnes, Poland is the largest coal producer in the European Union. One fifth of its coal is exported. Many countries in the European Union benefit from the coal produced in Poland said Klank. With a 90 % share of coal in power generation, Poland even has the highest share in the enlarged EU. Poland thereby strengthens the Community's security of energy supply. Klank calls for a comprehensive implementation of the Clean Coal Concept and the rapid construction of the first CO<sub>2</sub>-free power plants.

Heinz Hilbrecht, Director at the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, discussed the Commission's proposal on sustainable power generation from fossil fuels. The proposal enabled coal to also continue to make a major contribution to the security and diversification of energy supply in the EU.